

January 2, 2008

The Honorable Robert Walkup  
and City Council Members  
City of Tucson  
P.O. Box 27210  
Tucson, Arizona 85726

Subject: Citizen Police Advisory Review Board (CPARB)  
2007 Annual Report

CPARB fulfilled its goals “to foster and encourage a citizen police partnership ... and to develop and maintain positive communications and mutual understanding and trust between the police and community.” To that end, CPARB reviewed 30 completed investigations of citizen complaints alleging police officer misconduct. Most of the cases reviewed were found to be fair and thorough. Those cases whose findings were questioned were referred back to the Tucson Police Department (TPD). To accommodate concerns of the Board, TPD policy was changed in two specific areas: 1) all Spanish speakers would now have certified translators; and 2) all witnesses would be interviewed and have their testimony transcribed.

The most recurrent theme of complaints concerned rudeness and/or inappropriate language. TPD has been very responsive and has made extra training available to officers.

In an effort to improve CPARB, subcommittees were formed to find ways to reach out to the community; to examine and revamp the CPARB brochure; and to examine the original intent for which the Board was created to help determine its future. A second call to the audience was implemented to improve citizen communication.

During 2007, the Board asked for and received presentations from all five divisions about how TPD was dealing with neighborhood associations and specific problems related to those associations and areas. In addition, the Board requested and received presentations and reports on, among others, the canine unit, graffiti, gangs, and the implementation of Megan’s Law. In addition, CPARB members spent Saturday, October 27, at the police academy where the emphasis was on domestic violence issues.

With regard to membership, Ed Ware, Evelyn Alvarez, and Michael Elsner were removed for lack of attendance; Tom Clark resigned. Advisory Board member Joaquin Murrieta was appointed to fill the long-empty seat from Ward V; Advisory Board member Jennifer Lopez was appointed to fill the seat from Ward III. Elizabeth Bottka-Smith was appointed to fill the seat from Ward II. Ms. Bottka-Smith had previously served on the Board, but resigned from the Board

following the election. Barbara O'Brien was appointed to fill the position from Ward VI. At this time, the seats from Ward I and Ward II remain vacant. Having the voting seats filled by advisory members has been very helpful since advisory members have already been introduced to procedures, responsibilities, and limitations. In addition, advisory members have indicated their interest in the Board by going through the application and interview process.

Advisory member Dan Knieter finished his term on the advisory board and retired. During the summer, the Board held interviews and selected four people from the 17 applicants to fill the now-vacant advisory member positions: Geoffrey Boyce, Karen Brandel, Kathleen May, and Stephen Nekolek.

CPARB welcomed Gioia Sanderson as the representative of the City Attorney's Office after Kris Page-Iverson left the City Attorney's Office. Ms. Page-Iverson had been a great help in revamping the agendas to serve the goals of the City of Tucson and CPARB more clearly. TPD's Internal Affairs liaison Lt. Rick Wilson was replaced by Lt. Vicki Reza. Lt. Wilson was always responsive to the Board's requests and Lt. Reza has already shown her skills in her new job.

Thanks to the generosity of the Mayor and Council, two CPARB members, Susan Thornton and Jennifer Lopez, were able to attend the NACOLE convention held in San Jose in September. Their attendance provided insights which have aided the board in its review process. In addition, the yearly training also funded by the Mayor and Council proved to be extremely useful. CPARB wants to thank the Mayor and Council for providing the funding for these two valuable events.

CPARB would like to specifically thank the members of the Tucson Police Department under the leadership of Chief Richard Miranda who aided the board in its reviews of cases; who helped with the required training; and who honestly and completely answered questions about procedures even when some of those questions were very difficult. In general, the working relationship between CPARB and the Tucson Police Department has been cooperative and open and will hopefully continue to be so in the future.

CPARB would also like to thank Ms. Liana Perez, the Independent Police Auditor who gave of her time and considerable knowledge to make this board more efficient, educated, and aware. Her help and willingness to take on extra work on this board's behalf were much appreciated. In addition, CPARB would like to thank the City Clerk's Office and, in particular, Ms. Stacy Semas, for their help with all of the necessary mailings, correspondence, arrangements, and note taking.

Finally, CPARB would like to note that despite the fact that its voting and non-voting members are volunteers, each person takes the work very seriously.

CPARB members fulfilled their obligations in 2007 and will endeavor to do so again in 2008.

Respectfully yours,

Cynthia "Cindy" Schiesel  
Chairperson

CC: Mr. Mike Hein, City Manager  
Chief Richard Miranda, TPD  
Deputy Chief Kermit Miller, TPD  
Captain Robert Shoun, TPD  
Ms. Liana Perez, Independent Police Auditor  
Ms. Gioia Sanderson, Senior Assistant City Attorney  
CPARB Board Members  
CPARB Advisory Board Members  
CPARB Ex-Officio Members